

**SPECIAL
12 PAGE
ISSUE**

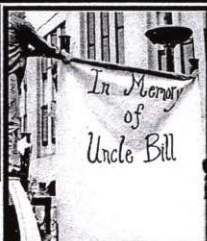
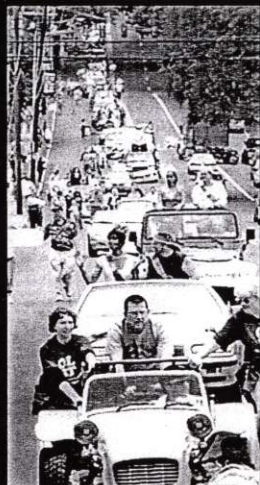
**SERVING THE
LV GLBT
COMMUNITY
SINCE 1998**

VALLEY-GAY-PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER
COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 8 NO. 7

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2005

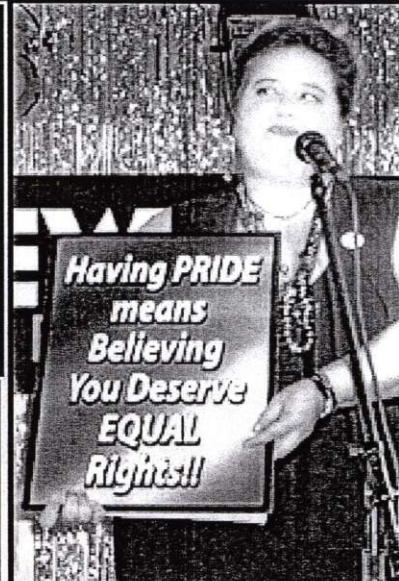


Dozens of groups participated in the parade, hundreds lined the parade route, thousands attended the festival.

Photos by Liz Bradbury

SEE SCENES FROM THE FESTIVAL

ON SPECIAL INSERT PAGES A, B & C
ALSO IN THIS ISSUE: VGP CAUSES PRO-GAY POLICY CHANGE - SEE LIZ OUT LOUD - PAGE 7, MCC CONCERTS - PAGE 6, LV AIDS WALK - PAGE 3, GLOSS WINS SPORTSFEST - PAGE 6, SHOTS OF THE PCR PARADE - PAGE C, PA DIVERSITY NETWORK UPDATE - PAGE D, NEW BOOKSTORE IN READING - PAGE 6.



**ALLENTOWN HUMAN RELATIONS
COMMISSIONER ALLYSON HAMM
ON THE PRIDE STAGE WITH
A SIGN THAT SAID IT ALL.**

PFLAG PICNIC CANCELED

The August Picnic & meeting are canceled due to illness. Don't worry, it's just temporary. See article on page 3.

DIRTY TRICK MAILING

The Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance (PA-GALA) discovered on June 18 that a copy of a letter it sent to its members was altered, duplicated and mailed to Republican Super Voters in the 131st District a day before the Special Election. Though this kind of hate-action does not swing elections and can have the opposite effect it seeks, this type of mail fraud is clearly illegal, criminally and by election board standards.

GLBT Infoline
Greater Lehigh Valley
610-HELP-123
(610-435-7123)

All Day! Rain or Shine!

FACT 2002

20th Annual SUMMER GAMES

Team Competition • Entertainment
Great Food • Vendors • Games

Featuring
The AIDS Quilt
Provided by The Names Project

Rainbow Mountain Resort
in the Poconos

Sunday, September 11, 2005
Opening Ceremonies 12:30 PM

Tickets In Advance \$15.00
(includes food & drink) Day of Event \$20.00

For Further Information, Call FACT at 610-820-5519
or write to FACT at P.O. Box 1028, Allentown, PA 18105

What's That About?



Readers write or email
"What's That About?"
editor Liz Bradbury with
questions about GLBT issues.



Dear WTA: I keep seeing movie stars like Tom Cruise and others talking up Scientology. How does Scientology view gays and lesbians? **Signed, Questioning**

Dear Q, As far as we know, Scientology officials do not seem to have spent the organization's money to actively lobby for legislation to deny gay people rights, like some other religions have done. But that's the best we can say about Scientology. It is about as anti-gay as a movement can get. In L. Ron Hubbard's book "Dianetics," gays are classified as "perverts" who are both "quite physically ill," and "extremely dangerous to society." In fact, the book seems to suggest that the solution to homosexuality is genocide. Some of the lines in this book are truly frightening. One of the final solutions to rid the world of people like us, seems to be to **dispose of us quietly and without sorrow**, but only after mass institutional quarantine doesn't work. Yipe.

Tom Cruise, who has always been aggressively reactionary when anyone suggests he might be gay (like it's such a terrible thing?), seems to be a full-time salesman for Scientology these days. Tom has a lot to answer for. I won't be going to any of his movies and I won't be dropping any shekels into the Scientology collection plate.

BERKS COUNTY GAY MEN'S GROUP

The Berks County Gay Men's Social Group continues to grow and attract participants from surrounding counties. Singles and couples are meeting and making friendships while building the community.

Next event: August 20: Last pool party of the season. RSVP to BERKSGMSG@AOL.COM by August 16. Check VGP or email for information on events in upcoming months. The BGMSG website will be up and running soon.

VALLEY GAY PRESS

WEB SITE: WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

Publisher, Managing Editor - Liz Bradbury

Publisher, Editor - Patricia Sullivan

Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Denise McKelvey Ruby Zebu, Donnie and Earl Snyder Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner

Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP) operates as part of Pennsylvania Diversity Network VGP owns the copyright to its articles and columns. No part may be reproduced without written permission of the Publisher VGP offers free copies for direct mail and hand-out distribution to Lehigh Valley area not-for-profit organizations and businesses. The opinions expressed by columnists are their own and should not be attributed to this paper

Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley

1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800

PFLAG Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

Allentown, 610.967.5219 HTTP://www.eastern-papflag.org/

Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown

19th Street Theater - 527 N. 19th St. Allentown

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley (UUCLV)

424 Center St., Bethlehem

Haven GLBTA Youth Group at UUCLV

To Contact Valley Gay Press:

Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 Phone: 610-432-5449

Email: liztrish@aol.com To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP Some restrictions apply

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RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

In my last column, a same-sex couple was having difficulty due to their elder parent's financial needs. Along that line, here's more to consider about Income, Assets and Estate Planning for your lifetime.

Income and Assets: a.. Is your retirement income adequate, or do you worry that your income isn't enough to maintain your lifestyle? b.. Do you understand the basics of proper asset allocation, and are you comfortable with the mix of investments and savings accounts you have right now? c.. Are you comfortable with the rate at which you are spending your retirement funds? d.. Have you had a professional's help in organizing your finances and investments, or would you like such help? e.. Are you taking out loans or incurring any debt?

Estate Planning: a.. Do you have a will? Has it been updated to reflect your current wishes?

b.. Have you considered or do you have a living trust to avoid probate and possible court conservatorship proceedings, should you become incapacitated?

c.. If your estate is big enough to be Federally taxable, have you considered or set up bypass trusts or other tax-saving trusts to avoid or reduce estate taxes?

d.. If your estate is large, have you considered making gifts to reduce the size of your estate and avoid potential estate taxes? (Gifts to charity can offer an immediate tax deduction; you also can give gifts of up to \$11,000 per person per year and not be subject to gift-tax rules. You should not give away money you may need later, however).

e.. Have you created a durable power of attorney for your finances, naming your partner, a trusted friend or one of your children as a second signature on one of your bank accounts?

In an Emergency: a.. Does a trusted friend or a child have a complete list of your emergency contacts, including the names and phone numbers of doctors, financial advisors, attorneys, pharmacists, relatives and close friends? Does one of your children or a trusted friend have duplicate keys for your home, cars and safe-deposit box?

b.. How would bills be paid and financial matters handled should you suddenly become incapacitated? (Creating a durable power of attorney for your finances and adding someone as a second signature on your financial accounts, can help others take over for you if necessary).

c.. Have you made up a list of your important papers and where they are located?

This seems like an extensive laundry list, however, if you have ever gone through this ordeal with a partner or family member, you will understand the importance of planning ahead. You certainly want things to go as smoothly as possible, when you are facing a situation like this.

Denise McKelvey, CFS is a financial advisor for Ameriprise Financial located at 5100 Tilghman Street Suite 170 Allentown PA 18104. Please mail or email questions to denise.m.mckelvey@aexp.com. Information contained in this article may not be suitable for your specific financial situation.

Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Diamondz Nightclub - 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

Stonewall Bar - 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown

Candida's - 247 N. 12th St., Allentown

Hava Java Coffee Shop - N. 19th St. Allentown

Fountainhead Book & Gifts - 641 Penn Ave., West Reading

- Monthly Direct Mail Distribution

Currently the Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance (PA-GALA) mails the Valley Gay Press to its members. To become a member of PA-GALA, send \$25 for an individual membership or \$35 for a family membership to PA-GALA PO Box 20825 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

HOT NEWS

HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS : every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQ youth ages 14 - 20. For information: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or 610-868-2153. HAVEN needs facilitators & volunteers for meetings and prom planning. Facilitator training provided.

PFLAG NEWS

From the PFLAG Newsletter, (PFLAG President) Don Kohn is sick and it is necessary to cancel the annual picnic that was to be held at his home. Not to worry, he is recovering and will be his normal self in no time. He just needs time to rest to allow his immune system to fight a virus.

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org. e-mail: info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 1st Wed., Eastern Monroe Public Library, Stroudsburg. 570-620-1234. Meeting Dates: Allentown: No August meeting, Monroe: No August meeting, Reading: No August meeting. Regular meeting schedule will resume in the fall. Call the PFLAG Helplines for times.

FACT SUMMER GAMES SEPT. 11 @ RAINBOW MT.

HEDWIG @ THEATRE OUTLET

The Theatre Outlet production of Hedwig and The Angry Inch by John Cameron Mitchell & Stephen Trask, directed by Beth Schachter, is coming September 9 - 24, to The SilkWerks. Internationally ignored song stylist Hedwig Schmidt is a hardcore East German rock 'n' roll goddess who also happens to be the victim of a botched sex-change operation. Part rock concert, part drag show, part bittersweet memoir, Hedwig and the Angry Inch is a musical for anyone who's been handed an inch when they deserve a mile. Email admin@theatreoutlet.org to participate, see www.theatreoutlet.org for audition details and tickets.

GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New members are always welcome regardless of skill level. From May to October there is weekly tennis and volleyball. There will be a camping trip to The Woods Campground, August 19-21. In the fall there are monthly gatherings for bowling, pinocle and game nights. Racquetball is offered year round, and snow sports in the winter.

GLOSS has an email newsletter that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website.

GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website. GLOSS on the web: www.gloss.org, or email: Info@gloss.org.

PA-GALA MEETING

PA-GALA Lehigh Valley Region will meet on Thursday August 11, at 7:30 pm until 9:00 pm. The new meeting location will be at St John's Lutheran Church Sunday School building, located at 32 S 5th St in Allentown, PA.

If you want a reason to go to fun GLBT events coupled with an easy way to meet new people, then get involved in PA-GALA's efforts to get out the vote & register voters. Come to the next PA-GALA meeting. PA-GALA has regular 7pm to meetings on the first Thursday of every month. If you can't make it to the meeting, but would still like to volunteer, please email Allyson Diane Hamm, LV Coordinator at allysondiane@hotmail.com or call PA-GALA at 610-863-0227.

???????

Robert Traynham, Director of Communications for Senator Rick Santorum has said he is an out gay man who completely supports the Senator.

HEALTH BUREAU ALERT

The Allentown Health Bureau is once again seeing an increase in the number of syphilis cases. Since chlamydia is on the rise and syphilis appears to be increasing - protect yourself by using condoms with all partners and seek screening. For more information on sexually transmitted disease, please call the Allentown Health Bureau at 610-437-7742.

LV AIDS-WALK

Reminder from FACT: Lehigh Valley AIDS-Walk will be Oct. 2, beginning in the Bethlehem Rose Garden. Registration: 11:30 am. Walk begins: 1pm. Watch VGP for more information.

AL-ANON AT MCC

A new GLBT Al-Anon meeting in Allentown started June 11 on Saturdays at 12 pm. at the Metropolitan Community Church. For information can call Chris: 484-767-3951 or Terry: 610-547-1125. *Al-Anon Family Groups are relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength and hope in order to solve their common problems.

GAY DAY AT KNOEBELS

Saturday, August 13, is this year's 11th Annual Gay Day At Knoebel's Grove Amusement Park. The picnic is held at Pavilion T-10. Registration begins at 11am. The covered dish lunch and raffle begin at 3:00 PM. Bring a covered dish to share. Hot dogs and tableware will be provided. Questions & directions: Contact: Steve & Robert: 610-821-0578, Russ & Rick: 610-379-9592 or email kikosdad@ptd.net or email Mike & Mike: mike.escobar@ppfa.org. REMINDER: Gay Day At Knoebels is not sponsored by Knoebels Grove.

INTERWEAVE EVENTS

Interweave is planning an Ice Cream Social in August & a picnic & other social events in the summer & fall. Meetings are held 3rd Sundays of the month at noon-ish (after service) at the UUCLV. You do not have to be a UUCLV member to attend. For more info, see the updated contact list on page 4.

LARAMIE PROJECT @ ESU

"The Laramie Project" stands alone as a revealing testament to the strength of the human spirit and as evidence of the continuing power of theater. "Laramie" is being presented from August 25-28 at 8pm nightly at the Abeloff Convocation Center at East Stroudsburg University and is being produced by PFLAG of NEPA & PALS, in association with the Omicron Theatre Project. The event is hosted by SOUL (Sexual Orientation and University Life) at ESU. Tickets for sale at the door. More information and updates: www.geocities.com/justincharleslee.

STEVIE Z

The 'Fabulous Fingers' of Stevie Z will be tickling the ivories at the Mooselounge in Allentown on Fridays Aug 12 & 26 from 9PM-Midnite. Half of tips received will go to the Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus. Please come out and see what you've been missing.

CALENDAR 4

Am Haskalah, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets, <http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa>, 610-435-3775
ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

AIDS WALK-see **FACT**
ASC-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701

All Together Now - Supportive Ecumenical Christians, 610-398-1286, bluemountain@entermail.net

BGMSG - Berk's County Gay Men's Social Group -- singles and couples social events berksmsg@aol.com

BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, www.civictheater.com

CUUPS -- Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans every 4th Sunday at noon at the UUCLV, uucv_cuups@yahoo.com

Enigma Players-- qacres@prolog.net
equal@agere-email: equal@agere.com

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

Gaydar Magazine
GLEE at Air Products

GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet, vagranthollow.com/GLISN/

GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, www.gloss.org Info@gloss.org

GLOW-at PPL

HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV - call: 610-868-2153, email: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com

HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net

Infoline - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 info@padiversity.org

INTERWEAVE -- GLBTAI group at the UUCLV. 3rd Sundays.. Interweave_UUCLV@yahoo.com www.uuclvpa.org 610-866-7652.

LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email: info@lvmgc.org, www.lvmgc.org 610-366-3320, rehearsals: Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem

Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition- 610-610-997-0976, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com

MCC - Metropolitan Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mcclehighvalley@yahoo.com, <http://www.mccclv.org> 610-709-8800

NCC- Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541 (#1386) or 882-2531

19th St & Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943

Out There- Students at CedarCrest College

PA-Diversity Network- 610-432-5449 www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

PA-GALA - Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance, (Candidate Guide, & Political Lobbying) P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610-863-0227 www.pa-gala.org

PARENTS-GLBT parent's group: 610-262-2519

PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 11st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 <http://www.eastern-pa-pflag.org/>

AUGUST 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 RAA LVGMC	2 GLOSS LVGMC LV PFLAG (cancelled)	3 M PFLAG (cancelled) HAVEN Pride mtg	4 GLOSS RAA	5	6 WDIY GLOSS
7 WDIY MCC HMFF UUCLV	8 LVGMC RAA Pride mtg	9 GLOSS LVGMC	10 HAVEN	11 RAA GLOSS PA-GALA	12 Stevie Z	13 Gay Day Knoebels WDIY
14 WDIY MCC HMFF UUCLV	15 RAA Pride mtg LVGMC	16 GLOSS LVGMC H PFLAG (cancelled)	17 HAVEN	18 RAA GLOSS Pride PTP mtg	19 GLOSS Campin	20 WDIY GLOSS BGMSG
21 MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	22 RAA LVGMC	23 GLOSS LVGMC	24 HAVEN Pride mtg	25 GLOSS Laramie Project RAA	26 Stevie Z @ESU	27 WDIY GLOSS MCC Concert
28 WDIY MCC HMFF UUCLV	29 LVGMC RAA	30 GLOSS LVGMC	31 HAVEN			

SEPTEMBER 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 PA-GALA RAA GLOSS	2	3 WDIY GLOSS
4 HMFF MCC NCFM UUCLV	5 LVGMC RAA	6 GLOSS LVGMC LV PFLAG	7 HAVEN M PFLAG Pride mtg	8 GLOSS RAA	9 Hedwig @ TO	10 GLOSS WDIY
11	12 LVGMC RAA	13 GLOSS LVGMC	14 HAVEN	15 GLOSS RAA Pride mtgs	16	17 GLOSS WDIY MCC Banquet
18 GLOSS MCC WDIY UUCLV	19 LVGMC RAA	20 GLOSS LVGMC R PFLAG	21 HAVEN	22 RAA GLOSS Pride Annual mtg	23	24 WDIY WDIY GLOSS
25 WDIY MCC HMFF UUCLV	26 LVGMC RAA	27 GLOSS LVGMC	28 HAVEN Pride mtg	29 RAA GLOSS	30	

OCTOBER 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 GLOSS WDIY
2 HMFF LV WDIY AIDS Walk MCC	3 LVGMC RAA	4 GLOSS LV PFLAG	5 HAVEN M PFLAG	6 GLOSS PA-GALA RAA	7	8 WDIY GLOSS
9 UUCLV MCC HMFF WDIY	10 LVGMC	11 GLOSS National Coming Out Day	12 HAVEN	13 RAA GLOSS	14	15 WDIY GLOSS
16 MCC WDIY UUCLV	17 RAA LVGMC	18 GLOSS R PFLAG	19 HAVEN	20 GLOSS RAA	21	22 WDIY GLOSS
23 HMFF UUCLV MCC WDIY	24 LVGMC RAA	25 GLOSS	26 HAVEN	27 RAA GLOSS	28	29 WDIY GLOSS

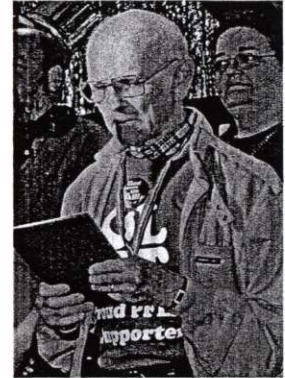
MADE AND PRIDE IN THE PARK B



and opening ceremonies at the festival stage



Allentown Mayor candidate Ed Pawlowski (D) supports equality from the festival stage



Harold Kreider on stage



ntative
n (D)
e stage



Pride in the Park Chair
Brad Wentz on stage



Allentown School Boardmember
Erlinda Agron (D) speaks from the stage



Allentown School Boardmember and
County Comissoner candidate
Robert E. Smith Jr. (R)



and Roberta Kreider



t civil marriage



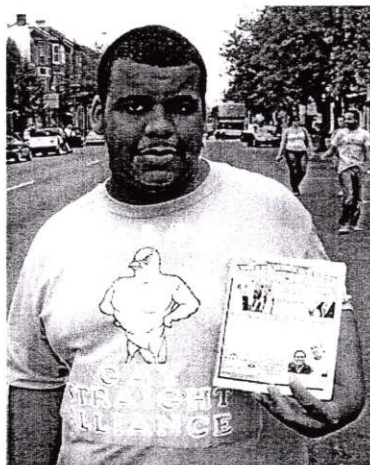
The Dianmoz float



MCC Boardmember
Dale Pakrhurst



Alix Dobkin on stage



Ian Wagner holds July's VGP that features a frontpage picture of him at the Haven Prom



Allentown City Council candidate Mike D'Amore (D) spoke supportively from the stage



PA-GALA Performers Pen Argyll and Steve Black



Allentown City Councilmember Julio Guridy (D) spoke supportively from the stage



Grand March



MCC's truck full of singers



Gaydar Magazine's crew



LV Renaissance Transgender Association



PRIDE at the Puerto Rican Cultural Center



LV Gay Men's Chorus singing the National Anthem on stage



Theatre Outlet with Hedwig



Technical Director and
Tax Collector
(D) on stage



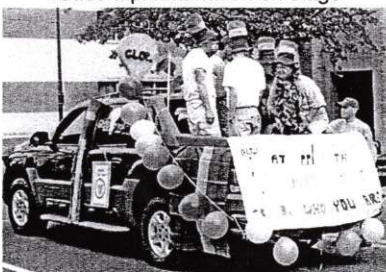
Marshall's carriage

Photo by Sarah Kersh

Parade



City Councilmember Gail Hoover (D)
reads a proclamation on stage



The PPL GLOW Truck

GLV PRIDE PARADE AND PITP FESTIVAL

SEE MORE PICTURES ON PAGES A & B

All photos by Liz Bradbury unless otherwise noted



Photo by Sarah Kersh

Pennsylvania Diversity Network, Valley Gay Press,
& GLBT Infoline at the Puerto Rican Cultural Parade

D

LATEST NEWS FROM PENNSYLVANIA DIVERSITY NETWORK

(THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IS PART OF PDN)

Pennsylvania Diversity Network (PDN) has been in existence for just about one year, and has already achieved significant success.

-- PDN is already IRS confirmed as a 501c3 charitable organization, thanks to the excellent work of Robert Roush. PDN's Board includes: Patricia Sullivan, President; Liz Bradbury, Executive Vice President; Gail Erich, Treasurer; and Boardmembers, John Early, Sarah Kersh, Melinda Kohn and Roberta Meek.

-- PDN has funded the printing of the Valley Gay Press all year, and coordinates distribution of this paper to organizations and drop-off points. At least 1000 GLBTA people read the Valley Gay Press every month. VGP staff includes: Liz Bradbury, Publisher and Managing Editor; Patricia Sullivan, Editor; and Columnists, Denise McKelvey (Rags to Riches), Scott Laubner (Scott Says), Steve Libby (Rants and Raves), Donnie and Earl Snyder (Planet Parenthood), Patricia Sullivan (Trish's Column) and Liz Bradbury (Liz Out Loud, What's That About, Pop Quiz, Distelfink and other general information columns.)

-- PDN began and is running the Greater Lehigh Valley GLBT Infoline -- a phone-in helpline open to any GLBT person looking for help and information in the community. Hundreds of calls to the Infoline have come in. Callers have a variety of concerns, but the top three topics are:

Social -- 31 % called about events, organizations, supportive groups and things to do in the community.

Legal -- 24% called about legal issues and have asked for a referral to a GLBT friendly attorney.

Professional Referrals -- 23% asked for referrals to GLBT friendly professionals, especially: counselors, physicians and other medical professionals and financial planners.

Phone answerers have been professionally trained. The line is open anytime of the day, but the line is fully staffed from 6pm to 9pm on weekdays. The interim Infoline Committee Chair is Sarah Kersh. The Infoline is now listed in the phonebook blue pages.

-- PDN's web site features one of the best GLBT referral lists in the state. The site is currently being updated by web master Robert Roush. Most referrals are "PDN Verified GLBT Friendly." The PDN Board works continuously to confirm these verifications and update the list. With over 120 listings, you can find everything from a GLBT Friendly Pediatrician, to a GLBT Friendly Travel Agent, to a GLBT Friendly Landscaper at <www.padiversity.org>. To list your business, or to recommend a service provider, log on and fill out the on-line form.

-- PDN has developed a series of trainings and presentations to bring information to the GLBT and mainstream community. A recent PDN Training Team presentation featured PDN Executive Vice President Liz Bradbury speaking at the annual meeting of the (9 County) NEPA Region Planned Parenthood Directors. Her presentation to the 65 Directors focused on legal and social issues faced by GLBT individuals and on assisting individual organizations to establish fair and equitable environments for employees and clients.

For topics of PDN presentations and trainings, log on to <www.padiversity.org>. To arrange for a presentation or training to your organization or business, contact: info@padiversity.org or call 610-432-5449.

-- Want to get involved with PDN? Call 610-432-5449 or email: lbradbury@padiversity.org to volunteer.

A

THE 2005 GLV PRIDE PARADE



VGP publisher Liz Bradbury, singer Alix Dobkin & PDN President Patricia Sullivan at the Pride Festival



Congregation AM HASKALAH in the Pride Parade



100's at



Allentown School Boardmember Charles Versaggi (R)



County Executive Jane Ervin (R) speaks from the stage



Pride GLV President Constance Kristofik



State Repress Jennifer Ma speaks from t



PFLAG members and Don Kohrs Vintage Jeep truck



Allentown City Councilmember Gail Hoover (D)



Metropolitan Community Church group

SEE MORE PICTURES ON PAGE C

Parade Grand Marshalls Harol



UUCLV marchers supp

PRIDE GLV

PRIDE IN THE PARK--

Special thanks to all the vendors, volunteers, speakers, parade contingents, donors, sponsors, and everyone who came to the parade and festival to celebrate at Pride in the Park 2005! To join the PTP 2006 committee, come to meetings on third Thursdays of every month at the Gate 9 Grille in Allentown.

PRIDE NEEDS YOU!--

Please keep the spirit of pride alive. Program planning for festival, events, and fundraisers continues monthly. Please join this dedicated team to keep the GLBT motion going. Various committees meet weekly. See committee lists and meeting times below. Email info@prideglv.org or see the Pride website for specific contact personnel.

PRIDE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Wed. 8/3 Fundraising, Perkins, 3rd Street, Southside Bethlehem; Mon. 8/8 Board, Gate 9 Grille, 17th & Chew, Allentown; Mon. 8/15 Retreat (tentative date, email ckristofik@prideglv.org for details); Thurs. 8/18 Pride in the Park, Gate 9 Grille, Allentown; Wed. 8/24 Film Series, Panera Bread, Tilghman & Cedar Crest, Allentown; Wed. 9/7 Fundraising, Perkins, Southside Bethlehem; Mon. 9/12 Board, Gate 9 Grille, Allentown; Thurs. 9/15 Pride in the Park, Gate 9 Grille, Allentown; Thurs. 9/15 Rainbow Scholarship, Panera Bread, Allentown; Thurs. 9/22 Annual Meeting & Elections, location tba; Wed. 9/28 Film Series, Panera Bread, Allentown.

Pride seeks GLBT community members with diverse backgrounds to join the hardworking volunteer Pride Board. Check out the Pride Retreat in August to learn more about the Pride mission, vision and job descriptions. Please email info@prideglv.org for more details.

PRIDE ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION

Pride's annual meeting and election will be held on Thursday, September 22 at 7pm. The annual budget will be reviewed along with a presentation of the past year's activities. New board members are elected at this time as well. Please check the website in September for location. If you are interested in joining, please contact info@prideglv.org for more information.

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY CULTURE CLUB

"Gay does not define me," said a nearby twentysomething in a local watering hole. A group of men at the corner of the bar were discussing the existence (or lack) of a gay culture, when the statement was made. Another guy said "Yeah, me either. I just happen to like men. I'm also religious and a father and Italian. I am not just gay. We have no history. And don't even get me started about the Stonewall riots because that doesn't represent me and I've done nothing to carry on that torch." Points were made that other cultures have their own language, ceremonial traditions, religions, Gods, holidays, holy days, wars etc.

After some thought, I would like to address this. Though I have guest lectured at numerous colleges on the topic of GLBT issues, I do not profess to speak for the whole GLBT population or even anyone other than myself and what I have studied and been taught by others who came before me.

Because the "History Of Gay" is not taught in most schools and because most gays over 50 are viewed as dinosaurs, our history is bound to be lost on today's GLBT youth. But, the GLBT population has as long a history as time. GLBT love, affection and sex have been documented throughout the years regardless of racial heritage, culture, religion, and even species, before it even had a name. Transgender and intersex people were even treated as royalty in some tribes and cultures, because they were believed to be the chosen people by the gods. (C'mon, not even "21" can beat someone holding two sex organs!)

We are a culture that had to form our own coded language before being gay was this tolerated. "He's family," "She goes to our church" and "He's a friend of Dorothy," were popular ways to signal sexual orientation. (Of course it back-fired if he really was your nephew, if she really was sitting in the 4th pew of St. John's last week or he personally was acquainted with Ms. Lamour.)

Looks, lines and signals for picking up that certain someone in an otherwise "hetero" arena, had to be used with caution. But people were desperate to get the message out there. There has been a gay culture war since gay was thought to be different and therefore deviant. Gay, homosexual, queer, dyke, faggot, lesbo have been hurled like stones at us on a regular basis throughout history. Probably the best known "gay war," The Stonewall Riots, were fought after people were tired of being marginalized and abused by the police, corrupt bar owners, and mainstream heterosexual society.

It is true that 'gay' transcends all cultures, races, genders, age, political and religious beliefs, and even species. You may be part of another culture as well, but "Gay Culture" is just as rich a culture as any other, when one learns about it.

I decided to address the men I was listening to, so I suggested that being gay does define a part of who I am and that because of the above reasons I believe a Gay Culture does exist. They left and went to another bar!! Whatayagonnado?

Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: info@prideglv.org, <www.prideglv.org>

QuEST - Student group at Lafayette College, Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.

RAA- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs. At 16th and Turner.

Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlv.org

Rainbow Space - Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244

Reading P-FLAG 610-967-5219

Safe Space-At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973

Saint John's Lutheran Church- A welcoming, gay affirming church, 32 S. 5th st. Allentown 610.435.1587

Temple Sophia, Interfaith Sanctuary 117 E Ridge St., Coaldeale 18218 570-657-6447 Pastor: Rt. Rev. Tom Cormier

T.O. - Theatre Outlet-, Allentown, 610-820-9270. Unity-26 N. 3rd St. Emmaus, 767-4417

UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.

VGP - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449, IVGP@padiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padiversity.org

Wachovia-GALEA- Gay And Lesbian Employee Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com

WDIY - WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Sat. 6:00 pm This Way Out, Assorted Women 6:30 pm. 610-694-8100.88.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

LYVCMC REHEARSALS - TUESDAYS
LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS
GLOSS VOLLEYBALL - TUES/THURS
GLOSS RACQUETBALL - TUES & SATS
GLBT YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN - WEDNESDAYS
MONROE PFLAG - 1ST WEDS
PA-GALA - 1ST THURSDAYS
MCC GAME NIGHTS-1ST & 3RD SATS
AL-ANON - SATS

INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAYS
GLOSS TENNIS - SUNDAYS
MCC POTLUCK - LAST SUNDAYS
GLOSS BOWLING -
ENDS DURING SUMMER
READING -
PFLAG NO SUMMER MEETINGS

AUG 3 - PRIDE FUNDRAISING

AUG 8 - PRIDE BOARD

AUG 11 - PA-GALA MTG

AUG 12 - STEVIEZ

AUG 13 - GAYDAY @ KNOBELS

AUG 15 - PRIDE RETREAT

AUG 18 - PRIDE IN PARK MTG

AUG 19 - GLOSS CAMPING

AUG 20 - BERKS GAY MENS GROUP

AUG 24 - PRIDE FILM FEST MTG

AUG 25-28 - LARAMIE @ ESU

AUG 26 - STEVIEZ

AUG 27 - MCC CONCERT

AUG 28 - UUC MUSICAL EVENT

SEPT 6 - LV-PFLAG

SEPT 7 - MONROE PFLAG

SEPT 7 - PRIDE FUNDRAISING

SEPT 9 - HEDWIG @ TO

SEPT 11 - FACT SUMMER GAMES

SEPT 15 - PRIDE IN PARK MTG

SEPT 15 - RAINBOW SCHOLARSHIP

SEPT 17 - MCCLV BANQUET

SEPT 20 - READING PFLAG

SEPT 22 - PRIDE ANNUAL MTG

SEPT 28 - PRIDE FILM FEST MTG

OCT 2 - LV AIDS-WALK

OCT 4 - LV-PFLAG

OCT 5 - MONROE PFLAG

OCT 18 - READING PFLAG

NOV 18, 19, 20 - PDN ART/CRAFT SALE

INFORMATION SUBJECT TO

CHANGE!

TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449

VGP@PADIVERSITY.ORG

PLANET Parenthood

by Earl and Donnie Snyder
donniearluca@msn.com

IT'S OK TO BE GAY

As parents of an 18 month old toddler, the issue of our child's sexual orientation has not yet arisen to any material degree. But the issue has arisen in theory. We are prepared to accept our son regardless of his sexual orientation and give him the support and love he deserves from his parents. The issue has arisen to a greater degree with the 13 year old boy we are fostering. He is aware that our relationship is one of love and commitment between two men. We have been honest with him, although he hasn't had many questions.

Lately though, he has expressed some things that have caught our attention. He asked about the rainbow bracelet one of us was wearing. When it was explained to him, he asked if he could wear one too. He asked about the gay and lesbian film festival we were attending. When that was explained to him, he wasn't opposed to attending as well, although we as a family decided against it, as it is for more mature audiences. And most significantly, he mentioned that he thought the new boy in school was cute. That caught us off guard. Was this the glimmer of emerging sexuality or could it just have been an innocent comment? A possible indication of orientation or just the confusion associated with that age? Regardless of why the comment was made, it was open and honest. We encourage and appreciate that.

All sorts of thoughts went through our heads. One was quite irrational- the idea that we turned him gay, although neither of us knows any spells or potions that could do that. Another thought was that it could be so uplifting for us to raise a gay child, reliving our youth vicariously, the way it should have been. Ultimately we settled on a third option, that we could be his first support system rather than a last resort. We simply told him it's OK to be gay. We have probably already shown that with our relationship, but the direct reassurance may help give him a head start in accepting himself that way... or any way he ends up to be.

NEW BOOKSTORE IN WEST READING

Fountainhead Books & Gifts was created to continue important discussions and thoughts about the diversity, feminist, and peace communities. Categories of books include: recovery, religion, erotica fiction, GLBT, love/sex/marriage, art, sociology, feminism, history, philosophy, psychology and poetry. Gifts of interest to the GLBT community include: bumper stickers, cards, buttons, T-shirts, posters and flags. Fountainhead is a drop-off spot for the Valley Gay Press. The store will continue to grow as the community defines the inventory. Contact: 610.898.1555, fountainhead@dejazzd.com. Directions from Allentown: 222S to 422E, Penn Ave exit, 2 lights to 641 Penn Ave, West Reading, PA. Located in the rear of the blue Earth Rhythms building. Parking in back.

GLOSS WINS SPORTSFEST

GLOSS members were on the top 3 teams at the SportsFest volleyball competition in Allentown the weekend of July 9-10. Mike Hampton & Dave Ryder placed 3rd in the men's doubles competition on Saturday, and then went on to take first place with their team in quads on Sunday. Eddie Nugraha and his team placed second, and the all GLOSS team that included: Ted Heller, Guy Magrone and Fabio Urbina came in 3rd.

SCOTT SAYS

By Scott Laubner



ADVENTURES IN HOUSESITTING

Every Summer I house sit. Years ago a family friend asked me to watch her house, cat, fish and rose bushes while she is out of the country for a month.

I show up, there is a check waiting for me and I make myself at home.

The house is different and it is a vacation from the ordinary for me. In the shower, "C" stands for hot and "H" stands for cold. I believe the fish had a stroke because he swims diagonally all the time. He is ten years old; if there was an assisted living facility for fish he would be living there.

But most of all there is Cinemax and HBO. And this has been a source of distraction for me. Terminator 3 and I, Robot; movies that I would never pay good money to see are suddenly free, and I can't help watching. Most ridiculous of all are these insipid soft core movies that are shown late at night. Time and time again I find myself watching them waiting for something to happen. In the faint hope that I may see some good sex or some good acting, I keep watching only to be bamboozled out of a good night's sleep.

If only the house had the Logo channel. Maybe you've heard that finally we have a TV channel of our own. I was elated to read about it, but Service Electric doesn't carry it. Do me a favor, Chipmunk readers, before I have to watch Jersey Girl. Contact Service Electric and tell them that they need to add Logo to their channel choices.

LVGMC REHEARSAL NEWS

Rehearsals for the Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus' November concert will start on Tuesday August 23, 7 PM at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 N. Center St., Bethlehem, PA. Singers interested in performing with the chorus are welcome to attend and meet artistic director Adam Koch. For more information, contact the chorus at 610-366-3320 or info@lvgmc.org. Also, visit the chorus web site at www.lvgmc.org.

The chorus has moved rehearsals to Tuesday nights at 7 PM at the Wesley United Methodist Church.

MCC BANQUET SEPT 17

MCCLV's Annual Banquet will be held from 6 - 11 p.m. on Saturday, September 17 at the Barristers' Club in Allentown. Additional information will follow, but please mark your calendars now!

MCC CONCERT SERIES

Openly Gay, Openly Christian & Gifted with Song: August 27 - Ray Vester, 7 pm -www.rayvester.co). October 9 - Jason and demarco, 10:30am -www.jasonanddemarco.com.

HEALTH DEPT ALERT

On July 8, the FDA issued a nationwide warning to consumers against drinking unpasteurized orange juice products distributed to retail stores and restaurants under a variety of brand names by Orchid Island Juice Company of Fort Pierce, Florida. 87 cases of Salmonella Typhimurium infection in 14 states (AZ, CT, KS, MA, ME, MI, MN, NH, NY, OH, OK, PA, VA, and WV) have been reported. The company has begun a recall of the products.



LIZ OUT LOUD 7

YOU MIGHT *By Liz Bradbury*
JUST HAVE TO ASK

What's wrong with this anti-discrimination statement? (Other than it does not include Gender Identity, there is something else seriously wrong.)

Lehigh Carbon Community College will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, disabilities, veteran status or sexual orientation in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices as required by applicable laws and regulations.

See what's wrong? It's the last part; "as required by applicable laws and regulations." What that is saying is that LCCC will not discriminate when it is against the law to do so. That's fine for the part of the campus in Allentown, because Allentown has an anti-discrimination law that includes sexual orientation, but LCCC's main campus is in Schnecksville. Schnecksville doesn't have an anti-discrimination law at all, neither does Lehigh County, and there is no State of PA or Federal Law that protects people from discrimination based on sexual orientation. So gay folks going to or working at LCCC in Schnecksville, aren't really protected by this policy at all.

Not to worry, there's a happy ending to this story. I called and spoke to a number of officials at LCCC and though most of the middle management people I spoke to didn't seem to quite understand my point, I did get a call back from: Administrator Donna Williams. She was very nice and clearly understood the issue. She did suggest that the spirit of the policy was non-discrimination. I countered by politely saying, "But the language doesn't say that and so people are not really protected."

I suggested LCCC use the policy that Penn State has. It's kind of long, but the language clearly protects against discrimination based on sexual orientation. Donna Williams responded, "Well, how about if we just put a period after the word, 'practices' in our policy and leave off the part that says, 'as required by applicable laws'."

"Yes, yes!" I agreed, "That would be great!" Then I went on to pitch adding Gender Identity to their list of protected classes. She said that the Board could change the policy (to remove the "laws" part) at the next board meeting and it would be reflected in next year's catalogs and handbooks. She said the addition of Gender Identity (and I also suggested they add Marital Status), would have to be reviewed by the legal department. (We might have to do some more lobbying work to make that happen.)

Ask to see your employer's anti-discrimination policy. Does it include Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity? And equally important, does it qualify the policy by saying "as required by state and federal law," or something like that? Generally, if sexual orientation is included in the list, the employer really does want to protect people from bias. And generally, if "under applicable law" is used they probably didn't know there is no law. Frequently, all the employer needs is an explanation and they will change the policy. LCCC is going to change theirs and all I had to do was ask. By the way, a policy that says, "We don't discriminate against anyone..." is not a real policy and does not protect anyone.

VGP has helped other organizations update their policies as well. But nobody will change a policy unless someone asks them to. So check and ask. Or contact me and I'll ask them to change it.

Also, if you are a student or an employee at LCCC, ask them to change their policy to include Gender Identity. Remember "Gender Identity" protects everyone who expresses their gender in variance to mainstream society...which is just about all of us.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EVENT

Traveling musical (openly gay) evangelist Ray Vestor at the 9:30am, Aug 28 service at St. Peter's UCC, Tacoma St, Allentown.

TRISH'S COLUMN

By Patricia Sullivan
THE GAY CLAUSE



We recently met with our attorney to review and update our legal documents. It's just something that you need to do every few years

because changes in your life and in the law can necessitate changes in the legal documents you have or need. We think of these documents as an umbrella -- if we have it with us, it won't rain. Well, we know it can rain, it has rained on us, but we had our umbrella with us, we take those documents everywhere we go.

We hear ad nauseum about gay and lesbian couples who are denied the right to visit or make decisions for their hospitalized partners even in instances when these couples are registered domestic partners. When a New Jersey lesbian had a stroke, the hospital staff called her sister in Maryland for medical consent even though her registered (same-sex) domestic partner was right there in the room. It took these women in New Jersey two days to get Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital to recognise their legal relationship because they did not have their papers with them.

We talk and write about these legal documents a lot and I am grateful to hear how many VGP readers have taken it seriously and sought an attorney this year to arrange legal documents to protect yourselves and your families. Good for you. (Call the infoline at 610-HELP-123 for legal referrals.)

We know our attorney well, and we challenged her to come up with additional language in our powers of attorney (POAs) that would strengthen our rights to be with each other in an emergency. She added a line in our POAs, that we call the "Gay Clause." Mine reads: "I grant the right to Elizabeth Bradbury to have visitation with me in those facilities where visitation is restricted to family members only." This makes it clear that your partner has a right to be with you during your hospital stay. It is not a line that comes in standard POAs, but it is essential to our family's welfare. If you get a POA, be sure your lawyer includes a line that underscores your partner's right to hospital visitation as a family member.

Our attorney reduced copies of our living wills and POAs to credit card size. We had them laminated so we can carry them in our wallets. They are always with us. In an emergency, we won't have to rummage through our desks or go to the safety deposit box. We already know how important (and effective) it is to have the documents with us in the hospital. Even on routine doctor's visits, when we tell the clerk in the doctor's office who to call in an emergency, we give them the cards to copy and put in our charts. Best of all, we have peace of mind when we travel.

Remember, a downloaded "boilerplate" legal document or a standard form from a local office supply store does not have the "Gay Clause." Obviously, I recommend you use a GLBT friendly attorney who fully understands your situation and who has experience with GLBT Civil Rights issues. Choose someone who has prepared documents for GLBT individuals and families before. Don't ever use attorneys who say they will treat you "just like everyone else," because you are not just like everyone else.

Powers of Attorney and Living Wills are relatively inexpensive. Protecting yourself and your family is well worth the money.

AHRC SEEKS AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Allentown Human Relations Commissions seeks nominations for the Commission's prestigious Human Relations Award. Individuals and organizations who dedicate their efforts to further tolerance, diversity and understanding in the City of Allentown are eligible for this award. To receive a nomination form, email: Butterfield@AllentownCityorg. Nominations are due by August 19, 2005.

POP QUIZ

8

1. John Water's movie 'Crybaby' launched the film career of: A. Tom Cruise B. Johnny Depp C. Val Kilmer D. Judge Reinhold
2. The new director's cut of Crybaby includes a short documentary called: A. They're Idiots B. It's Divine C. It Came From Baltimore D. A Town Without Pity
3. "Merry Christmas Maggie Thatcher" is a song from the new UK Theater version of: A. Billy Elliot B. Cats C. Taboo D. The Full Monty
4. The country of Canada passed full marriage rights for same-sex couples on: A. 6/15/2002 B. 1/1/2003 C. 1/28/2004 D. 7/20/2005
5. When Canada passed marriage rights for same-sex couples, there were already three countries that gave those rights. They were: A. Sweden, Norway, Netherlands B. Thailand, Sweden, Belgium C. Netherlands, Belgium, Spain D. Scotland, Netherlands, Norway
6. While European Union countries are way ahead of the US on partner and marriage rights for same-sex couples, generally they are behind the US on same-sex couples' right to: A. buy property B. adopt C. inherit D. have spousal citizenship
7. Scientology is _____ toward gay people. A. positive B. negative
8. Of the four countries that now offer same-sex marriage, which one was run, less than 35 years ago, by a fascist pro-Nazi dictator who outlawed homosexuality?
9. "There's no crying in baseball!" is a line from: A. The Bad News Bears (with Walter Matthau) B. The Bad News Bears (with Billy Thornton) C. The Natural D. A League of Their Own
10. Will and Grace's Beverly Leslie is played by: A. Leslie Jordan B. Jordan Leslie C. Truman Leslie D. Karen Walker

1.B 2.C 3.A 4.D 5.C 6.B 7.B 8.B 9.D 10.A

QUOTE #5

"Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel."
-- Samuel Johnson

QUOTE #6

"...furthermore, telling the press that you are disgusted by reports of torture does not endanger our troops; I'll tell you what endangers our troops. Greedy cretinous toad leaders who send them 12,000 miles away to a desert to fight a war based on lies."
-- Columnist Will Durst

QUOTE #7

"Someone should really do a national, once-and-for-all study to back up what everyone already knows -- which is, of course, that the more repressed and sanctimonious and uptight you are about sex and love and gender and religion, the more likely you are to be involved in secret kink, in deep perversion, illegal perversion, perversion that crosses the line from healthy and slippery and delicious to degrading and morally reprehensible and Karl Rove. Just ask ... the Catholic Church." -- SFGate.com columnist Mark Morford, May 11.

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based on actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability or use of a guide animal in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network

GLBT Infoline

PA-GALA

Valley Gay Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe-Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the GLV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLSN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater 19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley

Muhlenberg Theater Association

Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley

Touchstone Theater

Congregation Am Tishbi

To add your organization to this list, Contact VGP

QUOTE #1

"Today, Spanish society is responding to a group of people who for years have been humiliated, whose rights have been ignored, their dignity offended, their identity denied and their freedom restricted. Today Spanish society grants them the respect they deserve, recognizes their rights, restores their dignity, affirms their identity, and restores their liberty." -- Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero addressing the Congress of Deputies, which voted to legalize full same-sex marriage and gay adoption, June 30.

QUOTE #2

"I want to thank you, on behalf of my husband (via our Canadian marriage in 2003) Timothy and myself for your excellent leadership as President of the UCC and your courageous statement of support for marriage equality at Synod." -- Local Activist Rev. Earl Ball, from a letter of appreciation he wrote to John Thomas, President/Moderator of the United Church of Christ regarding the decision of the United Church of Christ at its Synod meeting to support marriage equality (by an 80% vote!).

QUOTE #3

"U.S. Census figures show that Massachusetts has the lowest divorce rate in the country -- boasting more family stability than any of the 18 states that have adopted constitutional bans on gay marriage. There is no statistical validity to the claim that allowing gays to marry has undermined the institution here." -- From a Boston Globe editorial, May 17.

QUOTE #4

"What's happening in Boyd County (KY)... is a pattern where conservative groups are trying to erase forever any mention of gays and lesbians. If they can push us back in the closet and make us go away they think they've achieved a victory. But I think these desperate tactics are a recognition that they're losing the war. Unfortunately there's still a lot of collateral damage from the war." -- Sharon McGowan, a staff attorney with the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project.

Distelfink © by Ruby Zebu 'Extremist = Fundamentalist' 8/05



The editorial columns and political cartoon that appear in Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.